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ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 10

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

ROYAL RUMBLE

Sunday, January 21, 1990

Orlando Arena

Orlando, FL

Welcome to a special "Royal Rumble" edition of "AR". Hello to all the regulars and a special hello to the newcomers. Maybe one of you will win rookie of the year. The Titan PPV crew invaded the Sunshine State for their yearly Rumble and yours truly was there live. Besides that report we've got the debut column of Jersey Joe Mullins which is called "Cosmic Clothesline". Jersey Joe is another in the long family lineage of Mullins. (Sort of like a commune.) I've inked Jersey to a long term contract for unlimited visits to Dr. Crane. Seriously, his column will appear the second issue of each month and with Evan Ginzburg writing his in the first ish of the month, I feel we've made a major coup here at "AR". I know you'll enjoy them. We also have a letter from Mike Terry who explains the recent NWA promoting of a card in Toledo. This incident is a perfect example of how the NWA has been promoting house shows. Mike has approached us about doing a Larry King type column for "AR" so we'll be hearing from Mike in the near future. A couple of reports and your favorite, "Ramblings" round out the issue.

The next issue of "Arena Report" will be cover dated Feb. 10 and will be headlined by a WWF card in Boston Garden. Wrestling remains pretty dry down here. The PWF has cancelled their 1/28 date here. The NWA returns to Daytona Beach on 3/17. Spring break starts that weekend and usually McMahon books the Ocean Center during that time as they did well there the past few times they ran in accordance with that weekend so the NWA could do very well. I will be attending that show with the Philly Freedom Fighter Jammie Ward who will be invading Florida for a whole month. Batten down the hatches. The 2/10 issue will also have a review on the 1/27 SNME and the 2/6 Clash of Champions along with another installment of "A Piece Of My Mind".

"Arena Report" is published twice a month at the cost of 75¢ per issue. A number appears at the top left corner indicating how many issues you have remaining. All renewals, letters, and results may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 916 Sloewood Ct., Lake Mary, FL 32746. Wrestling Observer editor Dave Meltzer and his companion Erin flew over from California to join me, Cheryl, Klone and Elaine for this gala event. Let's jockey for our seats and go to the action. Live PPV!!!

Before I continue let me end the question that Jeff Mullins had everyone talking about. Who would sit where. There was no problem as Klone and Elaine no showed the show. Let's just say there was a misunderstanding. No hard feelings or anything but they didn't make it. So it was Cheryl, me, Dave, and Erin in that order. The previous three paragraphs had been typed prior to Sat. when I thought they were coming.

Opening Match

Paul Roma beat Brooklyn Brawler in 6:13 with a powerslam. They did a good false finish as Lombardi reversed a flying press off the top by Roma that went to a two count. This was the warm up bout that

was actually better than the first four matches on the PPV card. Grades will be an average of mine and Dave's. * $\frac{1}{4}$

Tag Team Match

Bushwhackers beat The Fabulous Rougeaus in 13:37. Crowd pop was unreal for the Whackers. One sign read, "Bushwhackers are on a bush patrol." Luke pulled Jimmy Hart in the ring. They were splitting his legs apart when Jacques and Raymond bumped them into each other. While the Rougeaus were talking strategy, the Bushes gave them the head ram and Ray went out of the ring and Butch pinned Jacques. Match was terrible until last two minutes. $\frac{1}{4}$ *

3rd Match

Brutus Beefcake beat The Genius via DQ at 11:10. Hebner took a good ref bump (obvious it was coming) that was better than any other bump during this match. Bruti put Poffo to sleep and proceeded to cut his hair. Curt Hennig came in. I don't know how Brutus didn't see him as he was facing the runway. Hennig and Poffo doubled on Beefer with a chair until other refs broke it up. A fan tried to climb over the barrier to get at Hennig. Must be a World Class fan. Poor Curt. Must be his next feud on his itinerary. Beefcake. * for the post match stuff. Lanny will look evne worse with his new doo.

Submission Match

Ron Garvin defeated Greg Valentine in 18:34. A submission match, so why were these guys trying to pin each other. Good stiff chops but the crowd had died. Both guys lost their shin guards. Hart took off Garvin's and Ronnie took Greg's. Garvin wouldn't sell Greg's figure four. He was making faces at Valentine so Greg released it. Garvin nailed Greg with a shin guard to put him out and then he locked on the scorpion to get Greg to give up. This match reminded me and Dave of Funk-Flair I Quit match. Yeah, right. $\frac{1}{4}$ *

---- Brother Love interviewed Sherri and Sapphire. The heels were running Sapphire down until she slapped Sherri in the face. Savage came running down immediatly followed by Dusty. Randy kicked Dust before he could get in the ring. He then did his leap on Rhodes on the outside. Refs broke it up and then Dusty went after Bro Love. He bodyslammed him, Sapphire slapped him and Bro went out through the ropes. Dusty arrived home. The place was going crazy.

5th Match

Hacksaw Duggan downed Big Bossman via DQ at 10:24. BBM lost lots of weight. Probably for his face stint. Bossman got caught using the nightstick and was DQ'd. Duggan then cleared the ring with his stick. Should have given Erin some No-Doze for this one. -** $\frac{1}{4}$

Royal Rumble

You don't really want the order of entry do you? I'll give the exits out and who did the throwing out with a few comments thrown in. I found it creative to have Ted the first one in since last year he bought his way to be number 30. He quickly eliminated #2 Koko Ware (Thank God) with a backdrop over the top rope. (That move and the clothesline were the two most frequent means of elimination.) Marty Jannetty came in next and missed a cross body on DiBiase and he went over. Jake Roberts, Randy Savage, and Roddy Piper were the next three men in the ring and we had the best action of the night with these guys in there. Piper's entrance was hot. The place went bonkers. Jake was going for a DDT on

Ted when Savage clotheslined Roberts over the top rope. Warlord, Bret Hart, Bad News, and Dusty entered. Rhodes backdropped Savage over. Andre entered and hip tossed Warlord out. Bad News backdropped Piper out and then Brown pulled Roddy over to eliminate him. They had a good brawl to the back. Poor Piper. A feud with Bad News? Red Rooster Taylor came in as a sub for Windless and was deposited over by Andre. Andre got locked in the ropes so he could take a rest. Ax, Haku, and Smash joined the fray. Demo double bumped Andre out. Akeem came in and got rid of Bret Hart (who was disappointing while in there.). Snuka came in and headbutted Akeem out. Bravo and Earthquake came in next. Quake eliminated Dusty with a clothesline to the back. Looks like they are going to push this guy. Why? Oh, friends of Bravo who's friends of Pat. Earthquake dumped Ax out but was ganged up on and sent to the showers. Neidhart and Warrior came next two in. Warrior gave Bravo a backdrop over. Warrior blew up. Haku threw Smash over the top but he stayed on the apron until Haku delivered a good savate kick to knock him to the floor. The Anvil got eliminated. Rick Martel entered. Santana was next. Ted DiBiase got clotheslined by Warrior and ended his 40 minute stint. He gets this guys vote as best performer during this thing. (For stamina anyway.) Honkey and Hogan came in. Snuka went right after Hulk and Hogan clotheslined him out. Hogan's superman boot did in Haku. Warrior pushed Tito out. Shaun Michaels entered. In quick succession, Honkey, Michaels and Martel all were eliminated by Hulk or Warrior which led to the face off that even Hillbilly's granny knew was coming. After a few crashes into each other with no luck, they did a nice double clothesline. Fans were eating this up. Barbarian followed by Ravishing Rick were the next two. While Rude, Barbie and Warrior were going at it, Hogan came and tried to dump all three but only Hellwig bit the big one. He came back in to deliver clotheslines to Rude and Barbie and then split. Hercules entered. He backdropped Barbie out of the ring. Mr. Perfect came in. Rude clotheslined Herc' out. Hennig was on ring apron when Hulk threw Rude into the ropes and Curt pulled the top rope down sending Rude out. Curt then worked on Hogan for awhile even giving him the fisherman suplex which Hogan didn't sell. He made them comeback, gave Curt a nice sling shot into the post and tossed him out to win. Boy, I bet you were surprised when there was only 4 guys left. I apologize if you have a hard time following this report but it was a hard one to do. This rumble was better than last year. The people that watched it on TV told me it was boring so I guess it was better live. *** Time- 58:56

Rumble Notes

The crowd was real hot for this show. Howard Finkel did a great job to pump them up... Jesse was a howl with those Mickey Mouse ears... Rockers got buried here. Wonder what they did wrong. Listening to the talk all around, you could tell that everyone knew Hulk and Ultimate would go at it. But just a tease as they lead us along the way of the turn or non-turn. Dave doesn't think they'll turn Warrior and go into Wrestlemania with a babyface match. I don't think Pavlov's Dogs (or Vince's) would like that idea. They need someone to boo. I'll give the show a marginal thumbs up live but I bet on TV it would have been thumbs down. A battle royal is tough to follow on TV.

Ramblings

Dan Spivey will be out for awhile as he was having blackouts. He went in for a cat scan last week. It could be related to his neck injury he suffered when he was in Titan. There was talk of bringing Nord in as the new Scraper but Terry Funk nixed it saying they would ruin the gimmick if you kept bringing in a new one everytime some-

(continued on page 8)

By Jersey-Joe Mullins

There's more than one way, I have discovered, to tell a hardcore WWF fan from a rabid NWA fan or a maniacal AWA supporter. No, it's not by comparing the tee-shirts they wear nor by administering I.Q. tests, although the later is not a bad idea. (Three digits and you've got an NWA fan, for sure. Two digits would, in all likelihood, be the average WWF mark. And one digit, well...you get the picture.) Nor do I use the Ernie Santilli "Smart-O-Meter" which he discussed a year or so ago in the Observer. No, what I use to determine which promotion a fan really supports is the good ol' straight forward "Sneaky Jack Hammeroyd Probe-A-Lyzer" technique. I ask the mark a few questions and from the answers I receive, I can determine his promotional allegiance. Please note, this survey does not always work when a "smart" subject is tested. However, it is statistically accurate to within + or - three points when a mark wearing a baseball cap is tested.

One of the first questions I ask of a likely subject is "Why did the chicken cross the road?" There are three common answers I usually receive to this question. Here are the answers. You be the judge and guess which ones were given by supporters of which professional wrestling promotions: The chicken crossed the road 1) To get Terry Taylor's autograph. 2) To dine on danger and snack on fresh road kill. 3) To ask a hitch-hiker whether or not the egg came first.

Did you figure it out?? Sure, it was an easy one. WWF, NWA, and AWA fans in that order, although I have had some AWA marks tell me that the chicken crossed the road for directions to Buffalo. Other questions receive equally varied answers, but--unless you have a trained ear--you might not pick up the envariable clues which tell you which promotion the interviewees, down deep, really support. For the fun of it try to determine which pro wrestling marks gave which of the following answers. Are they fans of the WWF? NWA? Or AWA?

What is your favorite National Park and explain why?

- "Disneyland, because we like animals in costumes."
- "Pearl Harbour War Memorial, because we dig sneak attacks!"
- "Larryland, because we like the rides."

What do you like your women to wear when you are feeling romantic?

- "Tank tops with holes in them."
- "Anything that don't cover up the tatoos!"
- "Mud."

What's your favorite vegetable, fruit, or legume?

- "Coconuts and pineapples."
- "Chili peppers and chili beans!"
- "Potatoes and spuds."

When it comes to transportation, the ____ fan:

- Drives a ford pick-up TO the car wash.
- Rides his Harley-Davidson THROUGH the car wash!
- Is in charge of bug removal AT the car wash.

Regarding his dental hygiene program, the ____ fan:

- Visits a dentist once a year.
- Pulls his own teeth!
- Brushes his upper tooth on Wednesdays and the lower pair on Fridays.

If you need help figuring out who's who, well, then we know your favorite promotion, don't we? Until next month...let 'em grow and hang 'em out to dry!

Correspondent Reports

Dorton Arena

Raleigh, NC

January 5, 1990

Correspondent: Mike Gunter

1) Mike Rotunda pinned Brad Anderson with a double arm suplex in 8 minutes. Good opener. C- 2) Samoan Savage beat Ranger Ross with a superkick after Ross had done the same to Kahuna. C+ 3) Tommy Rich & Eddie Gilbert defeated the Royal Family in 12:00 when Gilbert pinned Jacko. C 4) Tom Zenk & Brian Pillman beat the Freebirds via DQ for no apparent reason. Maybe it was because they do stink Mike. D+ 5) Midnight Express downed Dynamic Dudes when Stan pinned Ace after a raquet shot from Eaton. Bout was missing something. C- 6) Ric Flair & The Andersons beat Buzz Sawyer, Muta, & Dragon Master in 14:00. Started slow but built up great. Arn pinned Dragon after a gourdbuster. B 7) Sting and Lex Luger went to a double count out in 16:00. Good match but ending stunk. Luger got pissed at the "Luger is a queer" chant. B for match but ending gives it a C+. ATT: 4,200

Memorial Auditorium

Utica, NY

January 6, 1990

Correspondent: Donny Laible

1) Tugboat Thomas beat Bob Bradley. 2) Bad News Brown defeated Bill Woods. 3) Honkey Tonk Man upended Sam Houston. 4) Curt Hennig over Jimmy Snuka. 5) Demolition Ax beat Haku. 6) Dusty Rhodes pinned Big Bossman. 7) Hack Duggan downed Randy Savage via DQ. Att: 2,200

Montreal Forum

Montreal, Canada

January 8, 1990

Correspondent: Francois Lalonde

1) Canadian Earthquake pinned Sam Houston with the splash. -* 2) Honky Tonk Man beat Terry Taylor by using trunks. Dud 3) Rockers won on a DQ over the Powers of Pain when Master Fuji interfered. ** 4) Rick Martel defeated Brutus Beefcake when he used the ropes for leverage in a return match from last month which also saw Beefer lose. Give it up man. * 5) Roddy Piper and Rick Rude were both counted out. Great heat after as Roddy lashed Rude with his belt. *** 6) Bret Hart downed Richard Charland (sub for Windham) with a piledriver. *½ 7) Ultimate Warrior retained the I-C title by pinning Dino Bravo with a splash. **½

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

January 13, 1990

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Koko Ware beat Al Perez with a flying dropkick from the top rope in 11:22. Not that Al is so great but why this career move? 2) Canadian Earthquake quaked Paul Roma in 8:07. 3) Jimmy Snuka defeated Honkey Tonk Man in 15:45. Snuka rolled up HTM after he collided with Jimmy Hart who was on the ring apron. 4) Randy Savage beat Hacksaw Duggan in a match with two referees. But they did the same finish they do with one ref so what was the difference. 5) Andre the Giant & Haku beat Demolition via count out in 10:20. Haku and Ax were fighting outside the ring and Andre threw Smah out as well and Smash got counted out. Bad stuff. 6) Bret Hart rolled up Mike Sharpe in 9:29 after "Iron" Mike missed a corner charge. 7) Ultimate Warrior beat Dino Bravo with a flying clothesline in 12:50. After the bout, the Earthquake attacked and when he tried an avalanche in the corner and Warrior moved, the top rope and buckle collapsed. As Louie said, it made the job easier for the guys taking down the ring. Att: 9,500

Correspondents: Elyse Zois & Dave Wolfe

1) The Genius beat Jim Neidhart when Curt Hennig came out and hit the Anvil behind the refs back. Dud 2) Powers of Pain beat The Rockers as Barbarian pinned Marty after Fuji tripped him. Michaels dropkicked the Master out of the ring but the POP did a job on Shaun who got stretchered out. Dud. 3) Al Perez pinned Paul Roma when he reversed a flying cross body from the top rope. * 4) Curt Hennig defeated Hulk Hogan via DQ. Good brawl and heat. Perfect took out some brass knucks and leveled Hogan. Hulk took them away and in full view of the ref, he nailed Curt for the DQ. ** 5) Akeem pinned Bret Hart clean in the middle. You read that right. Orton a no show. Bret went for a sunset flip but Akeem sat on him for the win. Both Harts took pins on this card. Sort of a punishment for talking to Turner. * 6) Ron Garvin & Jimmy Snuka went to a draw with Honkey Tonk & Greg Valentine. Elyse said the most exciting guy in the ring was the referee. Dud 7) Ted DiBiase beat Jake Roberts by count out. Virgil got involved and Jake got counted out for chasing him. He then came back and DDT'd Ted. He then put the snake on the ref when the verdict was announced. Dud.

Letters To The Editor

NWA In Toledo

The NWA came to Toledo on January 16th for the first time since the Georgia crew toured five or six years ago.

Frankly, the promotion for the show was second rate, compared to the WWF. Perhaps comparison isn't fair, so lets just talk common sense.

No localized TV interviews. That problem has been discussed before/ For four weeks prior to the show, generic interviews aired--mainly Lex Luger and Flair--the identical interviews each of the four weeks. Detroit's TV 50 which comes into Toledo on cable was advertising an identical card in Saginaw, using the same interviews. As much as I respect the parties involved in the NWA, that's bush league and stupid. If arrangements can't be made for at least generic updates each week, than somebodys priorities are screwed up. The Steiners are from the Saginaw area. Jim Ross talked about their return, why didn't the Steiners?

There were no newspaper ads. The WWF always runs several. There were no TV or radio spots (that I heard). If they don't want to drop the bucks into these areas, what about ticket give aways on radio or TV? Surprisingly, that didn't even occur to the best of my knowledge.

The day of the show, I'm home watching the six O'clock news, and in the tease before the commercial break, they plug the matches and announce an interview. Great! Will it be Flair, the Roadies? Luger? Arn? Sting? No--it was Steve Williams. I just shook my head. I know you'll find it hard to believe but he just didn't come across well; didn't talk about any of the other stars or match ups or the location, just mumbled non-sensicles. The rst of the boys must have been in town. They were in Saginaw the night before (150 miles) and the weather was fine.

The day after the show, the same TV station runs some highlights. We see some excellant action with the Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers (originally booked as Warriors & Steiners vs. Skyscrapers & Doom--Steiners no showed.) Then we have some excellant highlights from Flair-Luger. Luger has Flair's shoulders down, thinks he got the three count, gets up to argue with the ref, Flair cradles and pins him. 1-2-3-- there it was--free on the TV news. Why was the main event finish like this given away to the TV news audience? It's great that the news crew was there, but I don't think TV news crews should ever be allowed to tape and broadcast a main event finish of this type.

Many of these items have been mentioned many times in many publications. Yet, this blatant mismanagement continues. What frustrates me so much is that all this is such obvious stuff so seemingly easy to correct. Yet, week after week the same mistakes are made. The boys are literally busting their butts in the ring, but it's obvious that somebody from on high is dropping the ball. As Linda Ellerbee might say, "And so it goes."

I wanted to applaud your efforts on "Arena Report". You seemed to have captured your niche, your piece of the pie in the field of "inside" publications. I subscribe to all the biggies, but I always learn new scoops from you. Like the Warrior-Hogan deal on the SNME, and the Boss Man turn. Have you ever thought of offering a disclaimer of sorts before you print something that hasn't aired on TV yet.

Mike Terry
Toledo, OH

RL- Thanks for the letter Mike. It's a great example of what kind of promoting goes in not just in Toledo but every city the NWA goes to. The main area that needs to be worked on. I haven't thought about using disclaimers but if the demand for them got extensive, I would consider it.

April Fools

I am really looking forward to your coverage of the Royal Rumble. It could get interesting. I wish it would come down to something like the Powers of Pain facing each other.

Wrestlemania takes place on April Fools Day this year. I wonder if Vince has any special surprises for April Fools? An article in "Wrestling Eye" even mentioned the possibility of Hogan facing Dusty. Or I wonder if it'll be Hogan-Ultimate?

Clint Bennett
Moultrie, GA

RL- I heard that Vince is planning Wrestlemania with the idea that he can change endings to the matches right up to the time of that match. As for the main event, go to the bank on Warrior-Hogan.

Tweeners

The new column by Evan is an excellent addition to "Arena Report". I enjoyed the column and his sense of humor.

About Nolk Mai's letter re: heels..... Curt Hennig does play a good heel. However, I'm sure if Bret Hart had a choice, he'd much rather be playing a heel. He'd be just as good, if not better, at being "Mr. Perfect" than Hennig. And, only a TWERP would think the Hitman is a twener. (RL- Oh, oh, "AR"'s first reader war could have begun.)

Also, in answer to the question, "What is this Eon Mooney crap?" I think the Eon Mooney crap on Spotlight is a semi-welcome alternative to the previously aired "Vince McMahon" crap. And probably named Eon with the foresight that in the future Sean would want to deny he was ever on the show behaving like such a twener! Now theres a true twener!

Looking forward to your Royal Rumble report. Have fun.
Marilyn Rundle
New Paltz, NY

thing happens... Steve Williams may be quitting as he's getting tired of all the hassles. He wants to just work Japan. They're setting him up for another turn. A little too many don't you think?... Eddie Gilbert should be back in action by the time you read this. As you see on the Power Hour, he reinjured his ankle in that bout with Luger... Baba says they have Barry Windham booked for a tour of Japan. As Dave said, why would Barry fly across the world when he couldn't drive 90 miles from his home (Tampa) to be in a major PPV show... As you noticed on World Championship Wrestling this past weekend, they taped in Huntsville, AL. They were supposed to tape at Center Stage the night before but they were doing some remodeling and the seats were all put away and they were putting in a new floor. About 600 people were waiting to get in. The wrestling crew had no idea the remodeling was going on until they got there. They had to cancel but they gave everyone waiting free tickets to the Omni show and free passes to the next taping. Can't figure out why they weren't notified about what was going on... Jimmy Jack Funk looks to be history in USWA. He's booked for some spot shows for PWF... Speaking of which, they have lost their Tampa TV slot so it may be time to play taps... The Florida TV show was the pits last week once again. They had a newcomer on called Hurricane Walker. His squash lasted 2 minutes. Good thing... Don't be too sure about Sid Vicious heading for Titan when he heels. He's told quite a few people that the NWA has treated him great and he won't go... I already have a worst feud for 1990 and one of the guys hasn't even been on TV yet. Earthquake vs. Tugboat. I'm telling you. I can see it coming... Has anyone seen Andre in that Honeycomb commercial? He's actually smiling... The Nasty Boys are back in Florida and Tyree Pride is feuding with heel Brickhouse Brown... A correction on one of Steve Beverly's lines of the week in his latest issue of "Matwatch". (Since I was his source for it, I know he won't mind. When talking about the Clash where Funk tried to smother Flair, Manson said on a radio show, "Flair had been drinking that night. He was half in the bag." They should give this guy the mic once in awhile... Memo to Marc Aronin: Thanks for the Colorado lottery ticket but when I send it back and win a million bucks, would you really tell me?... Mike Terry's question of the week: What is a Sloewood? Anyone with the right answer wins the million bucks I won in the Colorado state lottery... Ferk of 1498-M, Reisterstown Rd. #243, Baltimore, MD 21208 is researching a book on murdered indy wrestler Jim Leon (Ricki Lawless). Anyone who knew him, saw him work or has any info on him may contact her. Her number is (212) 459-4283... Wade Keller puts out "Pro Wrestling Torch" for \$1.25 per issue. Well worth the price. He's also offering a combo deal in that you can get his mid-year 1989 annual along with his slick looking yearbook for 12.50. His address is P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis, MN 55420. Tell him AR sent you.

Final Word

That does it for the Rumble edition of "AR". Hope you enjoyed it. Thanks to those who helped make this issue work. We'll see you all from Beantown in three weeks.

The influx of wrestling personalities continues into Orlando as Jeff "Gary Michael Cappetta" Siegel will be in town Thursday and we may take in a PWF card in Tampa. If they're alive that is. Until 2/10.

See yaaaa,

Ron